

# **OPERATION: SAFE COMMUNITY**

## **COMPARISON CITIES REPORT: 2006 – 2015**

CRIME RATE TREND COMPARISON OF  
MEMPHIS, TN TO SELECTED PEER CITIES

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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DARC, led by Elisabeth Henderson, provides statistical and spatial data analysis, as well as research support and consulting services to government, non-for-profit and community-based organizations. Henderson earned a Masters in Criminology and Criminal justice and has worked with local law enforcement and community agencies in Memphis since 1997. As the Senior Research Associate at the University of Memphis' Center for Community Criminology and Research , she led a research team which partnered with the Memphis Police Department (MPD) in the development of its Blue C.R.U.S.H. strategy as well as developed and implemented the crime analysis training curriculum used in establishing MPD's Real Time Crime Center. She has led federally-funded grants for the Memphis Police Department and The University of Memphis and provided statistical analysis, crime mapping, and evaluation for numerous law enforcement initiatives, including programs by MPD, the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, the Shelby County District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. DARC and Henderson also provide research support and training for many community initiatives and agencies, including work for the Center for Community Building and Neighborhood Action (CBANA), the University Neighborhoods Development Corp, and The University of Tennessee Department of Preventive Medicine.

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##### **Contents**

INTRODUCTION .....	1
ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK .....	1
UNITED STATES, STATE OF TENNESSEE, AND MEMPHIS, TN.....	2
Violent Crime Rates .....	2
Property Crime Rates .....	3
OPERATION SAFE COMMUNITY COMPARISON CITIES .....	4
Violent Crime Rates .....	4
Property Crime Rates .....	6
CITIES OF CHOICE .....	9
Violent Crime Rates .....	9
Property Crime Rates .....	11
CITIES WITH POPULATIONS 500,000 to 1,000,000 .....	14
Violent Crime Rates .....	14
Property Crime Rates .....	17
CONCLUSION .....	19

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### COMPARISON CITIES REPORT: 2006 – 2015

#### CRIME RATE TREND COMPARISON OF MEMPHIS, TN TO SELECTED PEER CITIES

### INTRODUCTION

This report was prepared at the request of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission *spearheading* Operation: Safe Community examining crime trends using data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Data is drawn from the annual UCR for 2006 through 2015. In some instances, data may have been either unavailable for an entire year or may have been omitted in particular offense categories (for a discussion of the Part I offense categories reported by the UCR; see the section on Offense Definitions below.) This report explores crime trends for (1) the nation, the State of Tennessee, and Memphis, TN, (2) jurisdictions selected by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission *spearheading* Operation: Safe Community, (3) cities identified by Memphis, TN for comparison in its Cities of Choice initiative, and (4) cities identified from the Uniform Crime Reports with populations of 500,000 to 1 million residents.

### ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK

The main body of this report examines UCR crime data for the Index Crime rate, Violent Crime rate, and Property Crime rate for the City of Memphis<sup>1</sup> and selected comparison cities. Data for the report was obtained from the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Reports for 2006-2015. (Additional analysis of Part I Offenses is available in Appendices A-H.) Analysis compared (a) crime rates (offenses per 100,000 residents) for 2015 among selected jurisdictions and the City of Memphis, (b) percent change in crime rates among the cities for 2014-2015, (c) percent change in crime rates for the period 2006-2015, (d) the percentage from the median crime rate (using the median as a value of 100%) among the cities for 2014 and 2015, and (e) the percentage from the median for 2006 and 2015. **Methodological Note on Rape:** In 2013, the FBI changed the definition and offense of Forcible Rape to Rape. A more extensive explanation of the Program's methodology can be reviewed in the annual report and in the UCR Handbook published by the FBI. Prior to 2013, the UCR used the offense of "Forcible Rape"<sup>2</sup> defined as the "[T]he carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape, regardless of the age of the victim, are included. Statutory offenses (no force used—victim under age of consent) are excluded." Data collection under the new definition<sup>3</sup> began in January 2013; however, data reported from prior years has not been revised. As a result of the new definition of rape, data reported for 2013 and subsequent years using the new definition of for rape, are not comparable for

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<sup>1</sup> A comprehensive analysis of UCR data from 1985 to 2015 can be found in E. Henderson. (2016). *City of Memphis: UCR Crime Trend Analysis, 1985-2015*. Memphis, TN: DARC.

<sup>2</sup> The FBI's CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB) recommended to remove the term "forcible" from all sex offenses in the UCR Program

<sup>3</sup> According to the 2013 UCR Special Rape Addendum, "Proponents of the new definition and term omission say that the changes broaden the scope of the previously narrow definitions by capturing gender neutrality, the penetration of any bodily orifice, penetration by any object or body part, and offenses in which physical force is not involved. Now instances in which offenders use drugs or alcohol on victims who know them, or offenders who sodomize victims of the same gender will be counted as rape for statistical purposes."

many cities, including Memphis, to previous years' data.<sup>4,5</sup>

## UNITED STATES, STATE OF TENNESSEE, AND MEMPHIS, TN

This section examines crime rates and percent change in crime rates for the United States, the State of Tennessee, and Memphis, TN. Data on individual offenses can be found in the Appendices A (2014-2015) and B (2006-2015). Methodological Note: Index, Violent, and Rape crime rates for 2006-2015 for the United States and the State of Tennessee are presented in this section using the UCR legacy "Forcible Rape" definition as calculated by the FBI.<sup>6</sup> Crime rates for Index, Violent, and Rape crime rates for the City of Memphis are presented using the legacy "Forcible Rape" definition derived from TBI data.<sup>7</sup> *The legacy definition was used to calculate Index, Violent, and Rape crime rates for 2006-2015 to enable continuation of a timeline for comparing national, state, and Memphis crime rates.*<sup>8</sup> For Tables comparing Index, Violent, and Rape crime rates for 2014-2015, the new definition of Rape promulgated in the UCR are used.

### Violent Crime Rates

The Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis in 2015 was 1,740.1 representing no percent change from 2014.<sup>9</sup> During the period of 1985-2015 the mean Violent Crime rate for the city was 1,630.4 (S.D. 198.3) resulting in the Violent Crime rate for 2015 having a relative position (highest to lowest) of 11<sup>th</sup> during the time period of 1985-2015. From the period 2006 to 2015, the percent change in the Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis was -13.5%.<sup>10</sup> For the nation as a whole, the Violent Crime rate declined by -0.8% for 2014-2015; the change for 2006-2015 was -22.3%. The State of Tennessee witnessed an increase in the Violent Crime rate of +0.6% for 2014-2015 and a percent change of -19.7% for the years 2006-2015. (See, Figure ES-1.)

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<sup>4</sup> For a more complete discussion, please see the Special Rape Addendum to the 2015 UCR [https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/resource-pages/rape\\_addendum-2015-final](https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/resource-pages/rape_addendum-2015-final).

<sup>5</sup> The 2013 UCR warns users that "because the revised definition, unlike the legacy definition, includes offenses of rape, sodomy, sexual assaults with objects, and offenses in which males were the victims, the number of rape offenses may appear to increase for various agencies or in certain aggregations. Except where comparisons are made based on the same definitions of rape, readers are cautioned against assuming increases in rape numbers are due to an increase of violence or number of sexual assaults, but rather, the increase may simply be a reflection of the more inclusive definition."

<sup>6</sup> The FBI's methodology for calculating the legacy "Forcible Rape" volume for the United States is described in UCR as follows:

This table contains estimates based on both the legacy and revised definitions of rape. Agencies submit data based on only one of these definitions. Within each population group size, the proportion of female rape victims was calculated from all NIBRS reports of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object. For agencies that reported using the revised definition, the actual number of reported rapes was decreased by the calculated proportion to arrive at an estimate for the number of rapes using the legacy definition. Conversely, for agencies that reported using the legacy definition, the actual number of reported rapes was increased by the inverse of the proportion to arrive at an estimate for the number of rapes using the revised definition.

<sup>7</sup> Legacy data (offense reporting using the "Forcible Rape" definition) for 2015 for the City of Memphis was estimated by filtering for gender Forcible Rape data obtained from the Tennessee Incident-Based Reporting System (TIBRS.) The data set for 2015 is available in the TIBRS on-line reporting system at <http://tncrimeonline.com/>.

<sup>8</sup> Our election is in line with the approach adopted by the FBI in the 2013 UCR: "In order to continue the timeline presented, Tables 4 is based on data provided under the legacy definition of rape."

<sup>9</sup> Using the legacy definition of forcible rape, the Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis would be 1,720.2 resulting in a percent change from 2013 of +4.6%.

<sup>10</sup> Application of the legacy Forcible Rape definition would result in a percent change of -13.6%.



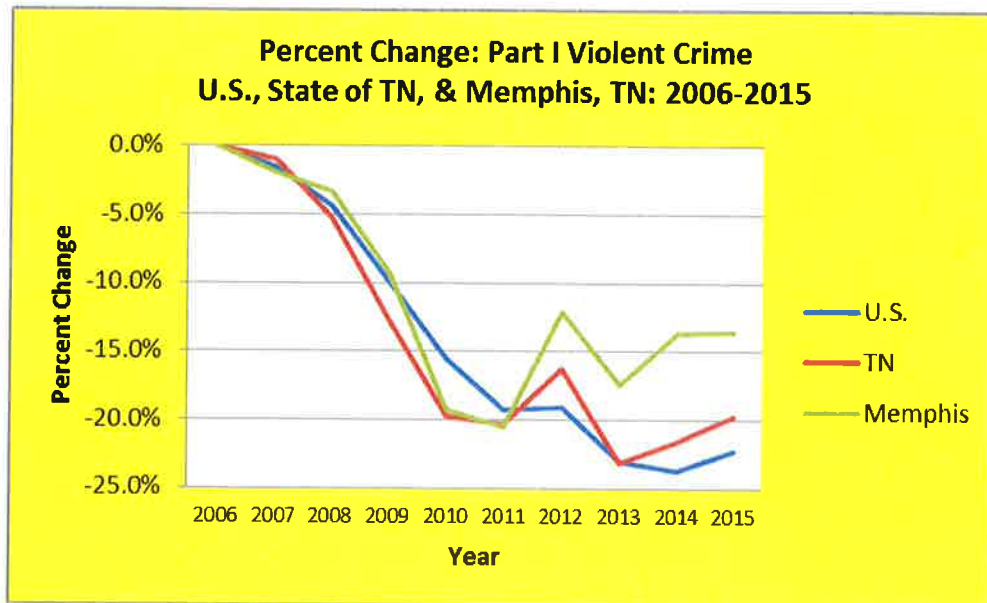


Figure ES 1: Percent Change-Violent Crime Rate-United States, State of Tennessee, and City of Memphis: 2006-2015

### Property Crime Rates

In 2015, the Property Crime rate for the City of Memphis was 5,630.8 in contrast to the mean Property Crime rate for 1985-2015 of 7,739.5 (S.D. 936.2) resulting in the year having a relative position (highest to lowest) for the 1985-2015 period of 31<sup>st</sup>. The percent change in the Property Crime rate for 2014-2015 was -6.0% and -32.7% for the period 2006-2015. The national Property Crime rate changed by -4.2% for 2014-2015 and for 2006-2015 the percent change was -25.7%. In Tennessee, the Property Crime rate underwent a percent change of -4.1% during 2014-2015 resulting in a decrease of -29.0% for the period 2006-2015. (See, Figure ES-2.)

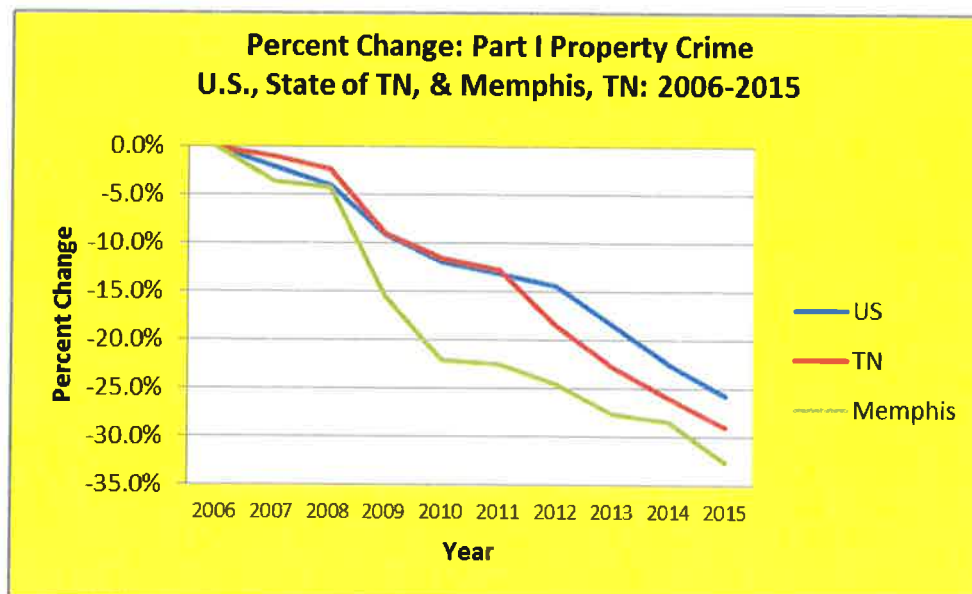


Figure ES 2: Percent Change-Property Crime Rate-United States, State of Tennessee, and City of Memphis: 2006-2015

## OPERATION SAFE COMMUNITY COMPARISON CITIES

The first group of cities examined in this report is comprised of jurisdictions identified by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission *spearheading* Operation: Safe Community. Sixteen (16) cities are included in the analysis. Data on individual offenses can be found in Appendices C (2014-2015) and D (2006-2015).

**Methodological Note:** Violent Crime rates for the City of Memphis are presented using the UCRs new definition for “Rape” and the legacy “Forcible Rape” definition (shown in footnotes) derived from TBI data. We note that two (12.5%) of the 16 OSC Comparison Cities used the legacy definition of “Forcible Rape” in reporting to the 2015 UCR. In addition one city changed from using the legacy definition in 2014 to reporting under the new definition of Rape in 2015.<sup>11</sup> **LEGEND FOR TABLES AND CHARTS:** Cities using the legacy definition are coded orange in Charts for violent crime rates. Charts for percent change from 2014-2015 have cities using the legacy definition in both years coded orange, cities changing reporting practice from 2014 to 2015 are color coded green, and cities using the new definition in both years are colored blue.

### Violent Crime Rates

The mean Violent Crime rate for the OSC comparison cities for 2015 was 1,053.9 (S.D. 444.3) with a median rate of 937.3. The rate for the City of Memphis<sup>12</sup> was 1,740.1 resulting in a relative position (highest to lowest) of 3<sup>rd</sup> among the 16 cities. (See, Figure ES-3.) Memphis’ 2015 Percentage from the Median Violent Crime rate for the OSC Comparison Cities was 185.7%, and 185.2% in 2014; 186.2% in 2013, 184.9% in 2012, 166.4% in 2011 and 174.4% for 2006.

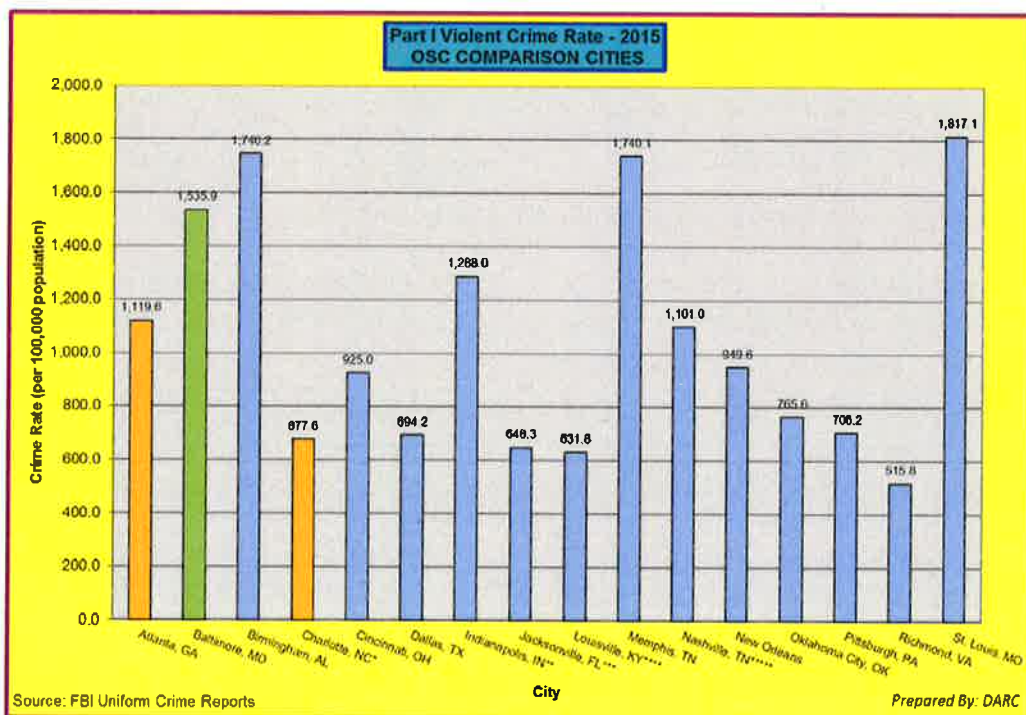


Figure ES 3: Violent Crime Rates for OSC Comparison Cities-2015

<sup>11</sup> We stress that readers should be cautious in comparing the crime rate data concerning Violent Crime among the OSC Comparison Cities, particularly the data on Relative Position and Percentage from the Median. We are unable, using available UCR data, to determine the degree to which these measures might be different if all cities included in the sample had used a consistent definition. See fn. 5 for more detail.

<sup>12</sup> The 2014 Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis using the Legacy Rape definition was 1,720.2.

In 2015, eight of the 16 OSC Comparison Cities suffered increases of +2.2% to +14.9% from 2014 in their Violent Crime rates. Seven cities had rate decreases with a range of -1.1% to -11.5%. There was no percent change in Memphis' Violent Crime rate from 2014-2015.<sup>13</sup> (See, Figure ES-4.) Between 2006 and 2015, four of the OSC Comparison cities had increases in their Violent Crime rates ranging from 3.1% to 81.6% while 12 cities witnessed decreases ranging from -4.6% to -50.5%. The decline in Memphis was -12.6% during that time.<sup>14</sup> (See, Figure ES-5.)

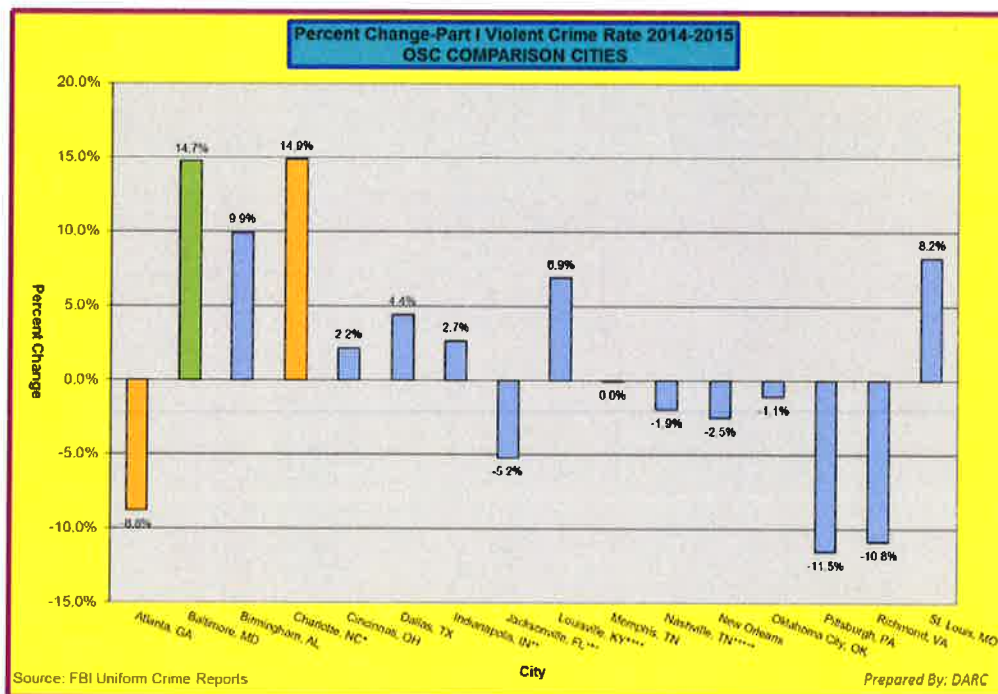


Figure ES 4: Percent Change Violent Crime Rate-OSC Comparison Cities: 2014-2015

<sup>13</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2014-2015 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was +0.1%.

<sup>14</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2006-2015 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was -13.5%.



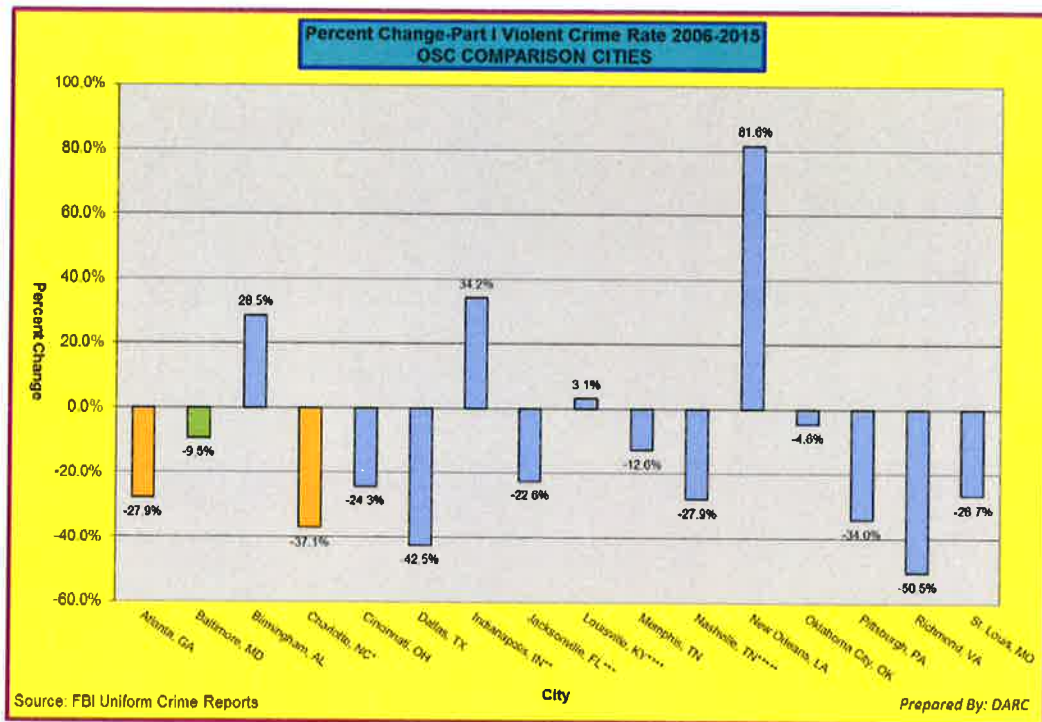


Figure ES 5: Percent Change Violent Crime Rate-OSC Comparison Cities: 2006-2015

### Property Crime Rates

The Mean Property Crime Rate for OSC Comparison Cities in 2015 was 4,556.9 (S.D. 1,029.7) and the Median Property Crime Rate for OSC Comparison Cities was 4,061.1. The Memphis 2015 Property Crime Rate was 5,630.8 resulting in a Relative Position of the City of Memphis among OSC Comparison Cities (highest to lowest) of 3<sup>rd</sup>. (See, Figure ES-6.) Memphis' 2015 Percentage from Median Property Crime Rate for OSC Comparison Cities was 138.7%; 138.6% in 2014. The Memphis Percentage from the Median Property Crime Rate for OSC Comparison Cities for 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2006 was 131.1%, 139.6%, 131.6% and 132.9% respectively.

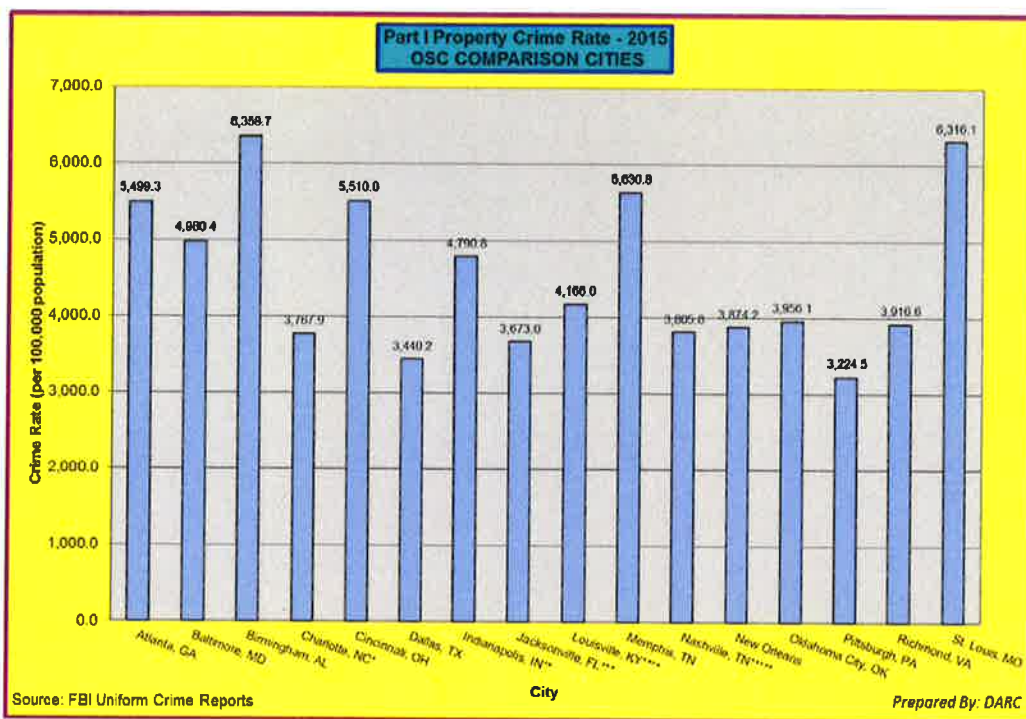


Figure ES 6: Property Crime Rates-OSC Comparison Cities-2015

Six OSC Comparison Cities underwent increases in Property Crime rates during 2014-2015 with increases ranging from 0.4% to 5.6%. Decreases were witnessed in ten cities (including Memphis with a decline of -6.0%) within a range of -0.5% to -10.3%. (See, Figure ES-7.) Only one city had an increase (37.2%) in the Property Crime rate from 2006 to 2015; fifteen cities had declines ranging between -1.8% and -49.8%. The decrease in Memphis was -32.7% between 2006 and 2015. (See, Figure ES-8.)

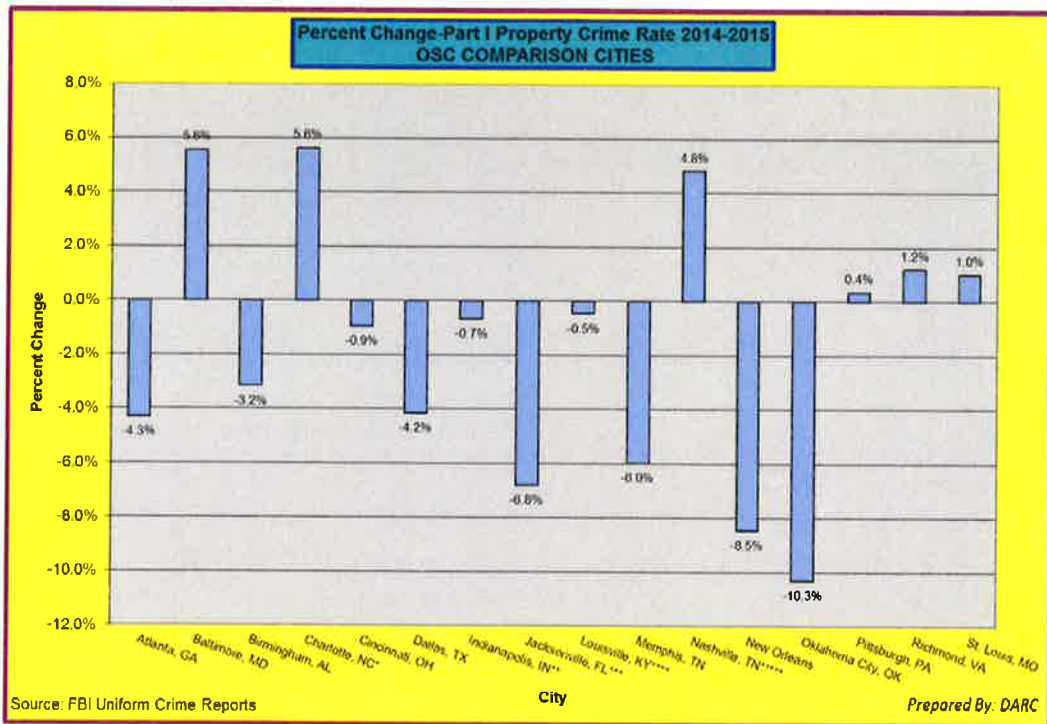


Figure ES 7: Percent Change Property Crime Rate-OSC Comparison Cities: 2014-2015

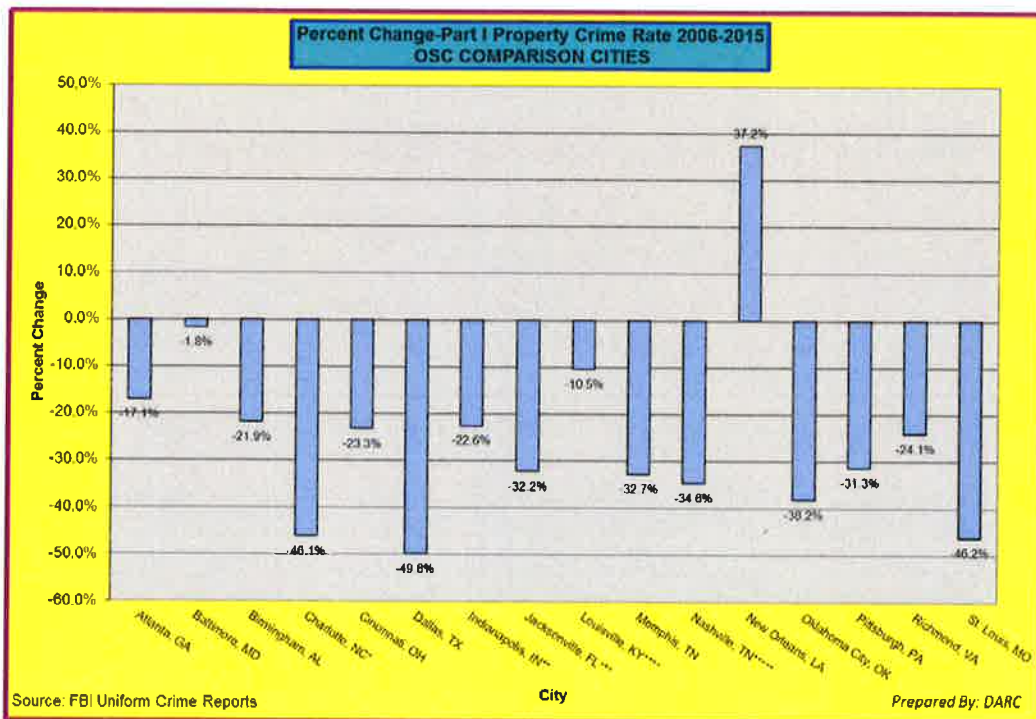


Figure ES 8: Percent Change Property Crime Rates-OSC Comparison Cities: 2006-2015

## CITIES OF CHOICE

The second group of cities examined in this report is comprised of jurisdictions identified by the City of Memphis for use in its baseline analysis for the Cities of Choice Initiative. Thirteen cities were included in this section of the analysis. Data on individual offenses can be found in the Appendices. Tables and charts for individual offenses can be found in Appendices E (2014-2015) and F (2006-2015). **Methodological Note:** Violent Crime rates for the City of Memphis are presented using the UCRs new definition for “Rape” and the legacy “Forcible Rape” definition (shown in footnotes) derived from TBI data. It is noted that two (15.4%) of the 13 Cities of Choice used the legacy definition of “Forcible Rape” in reporting to the 2015 UCR. In addition one city changed from using the legacy definition in 2014 to reporting under the new definition of rape in 2015. **LEGEND FOR TABLES AND CHARTS:** Cities using the legacy definition are coded orange in charts for violent crime rates. Charts for percent change from 2014-2015 have cities using the legacy definition in both years are coded orange, cities changing reporting practice from 2014 to 2015 are color coded green, and cities using the new definition in both years are colored blue.

### Violent Crime Rates

The 2015 Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis was 1,740.1;<sup>15</sup> the mean rate for the Cities of Choice was 1,139.0 (S.D. 456.5) and a median rate of 1,101.0. The relative position of Memphis among the Cities of Choice (highest to lowest) was 3<sup>rd</sup>. (See, Figure ES-9.) The Percentage from the Median for Memphis in 2015 was 158.0%, in 2014 it was 148.1%, in 2013 it was 146.4%; 145.8% in 2012, and 138.8% and 174.4% in 2011 and 2006 respectively.

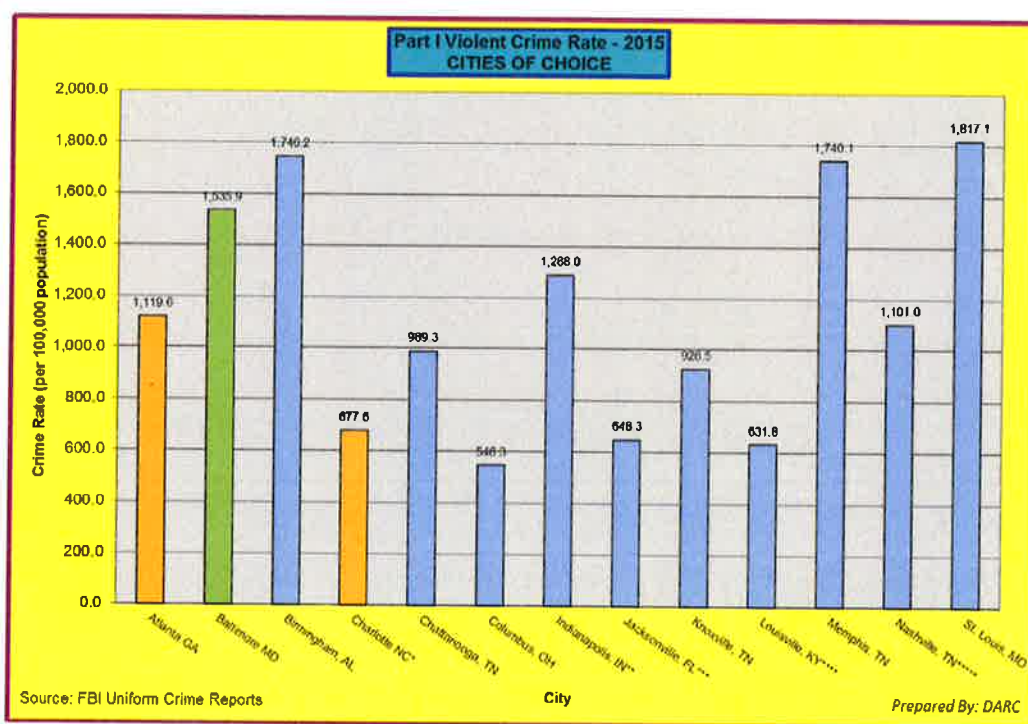


Figure ES 9: Violent Crime Rates- Cities of Choice: 2015

<sup>15</sup> The 2015 Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis using the Legacy Rape definition was 1,721.7.



Eight of the Cities of Choice had increases in their Violent Crime rates between 2014 and 2015 with a range of 1.6% to 14.9%. There was no percent change in Memphis from 2014-2015.<sup>16</sup> (See, *Figure ES-10.*) Four cities witnessed decreases ranging from -0.5% to -8.8%. During the period 2006-2015 three cities had increases in the Violent Crime rate ranging from 3.1% to 37.1%. Ten cities had decreases ranging from -9.5% to -37.1%. The City of Memphis' Violent Crime rate declined by -12.6% during 2006-2015.<sup>17</sup> (See, *Figure ES-11.*)

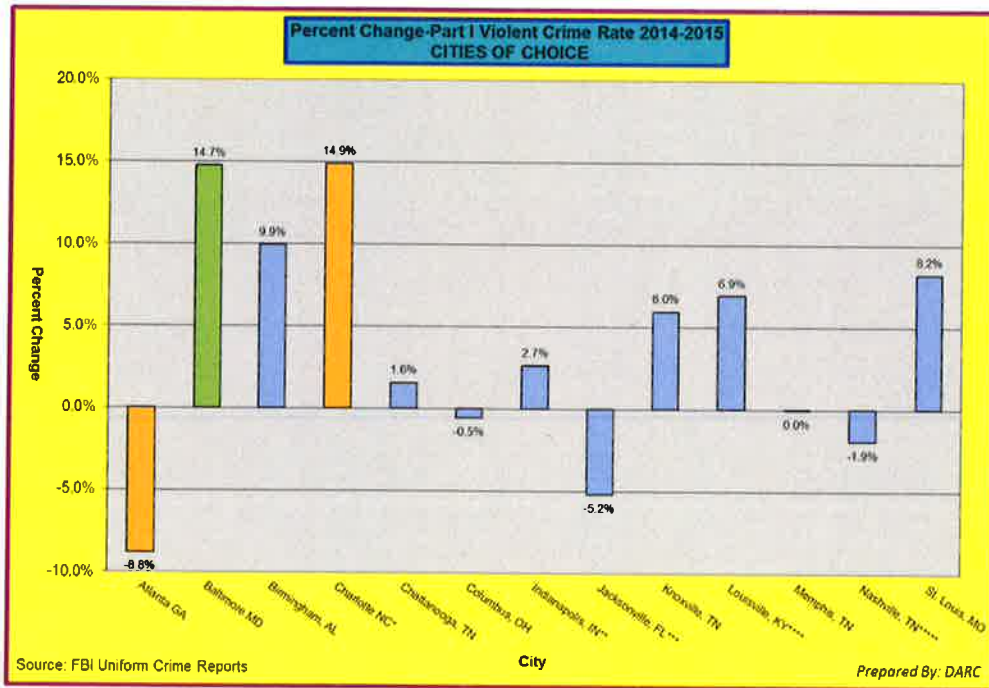


Figure ES 10: Percent Change Violent Crime Rates- Cities of Choice: 2014-2015

<sup>16</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2014-2015 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was +0.1%.

<sup>17</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2006-2015 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was -13.5%.



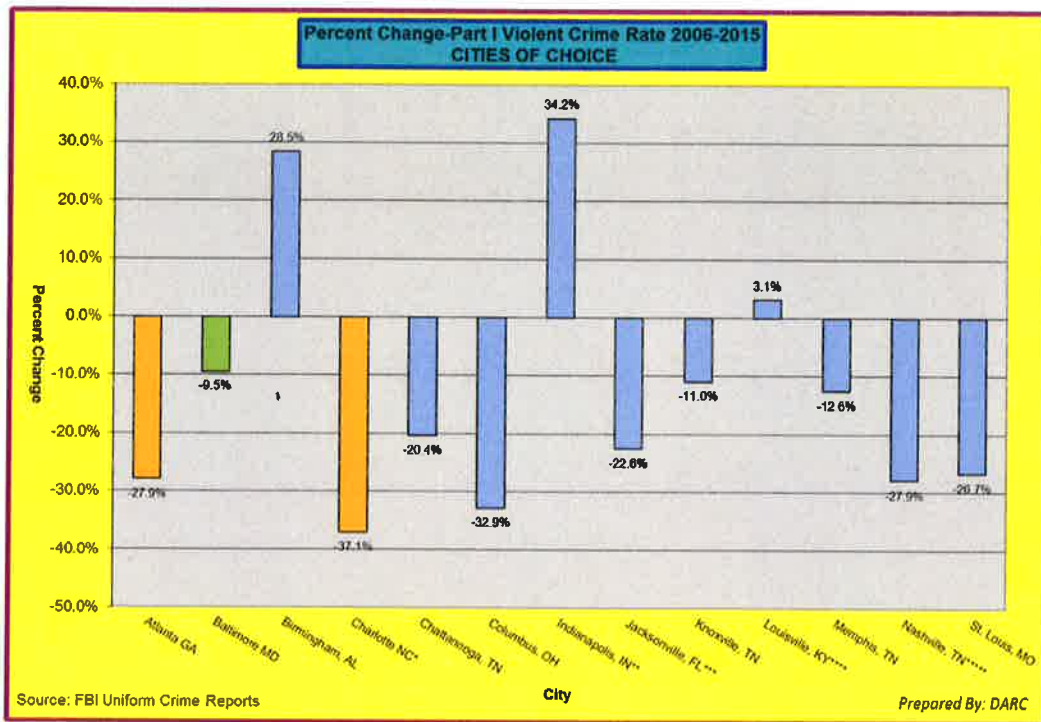


Figure ES 11: Percent Change Violent Crime Rates: 2006-2015

### Property Crime Rates

Among the Cities of Choice, the Mean Property Crime rate in 2015 was 4,988.0 (S.D. 1,026.9) and the Median Property Crime rate was 4,980.4. The rate for the City of Memphis was 5,630.8, resulting in a relative position (highest to lowest) for the city among the Cities of Choice of 5<sup>th</sup>. (See, Figure ES-12.) The 2015 Percentage from the Median for the City of Memphis was 113.1%, 113.3 in 2014, 107.1% in 2013; in 2012 it was 108.1%; in 2011 it was 108.8%, and 132.9% in 2006.

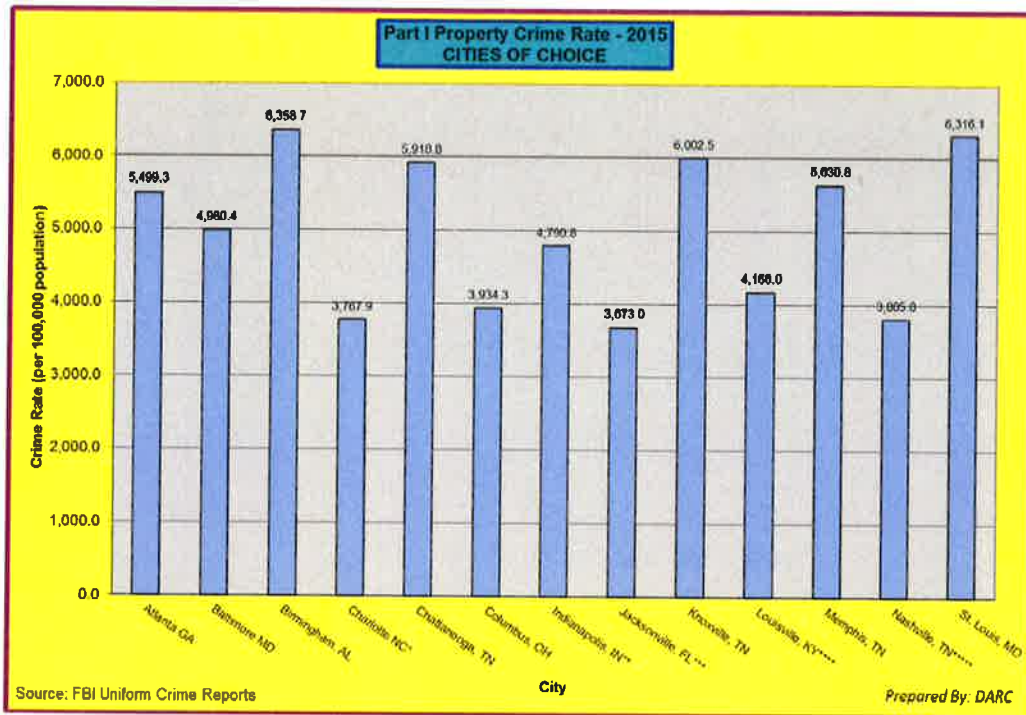


Figure ES 12: Property Crime Rates-Cities of Choice: 2015

Four of the Cities of Choice witnessed increases in Property Crime rates in 2014-2015 with increases ranging from 1.0% to 5.6%. Among the Cities of Choice, nine cities had declines in the Property Crime rate ranging from -0.5% to -8.0%. The 2014-2015 decrease for the City of Memphis was -6.0%. (See, Figure ES-13.) During the OSC trend period of 2006-2015, all thirteen cities witnessed declines ranging between -1.4% and -46.2%. The percent change for the Property Crime rate for the City of Memphis during 2006-2015 was -32.7%. (See, Figure ES-14.)

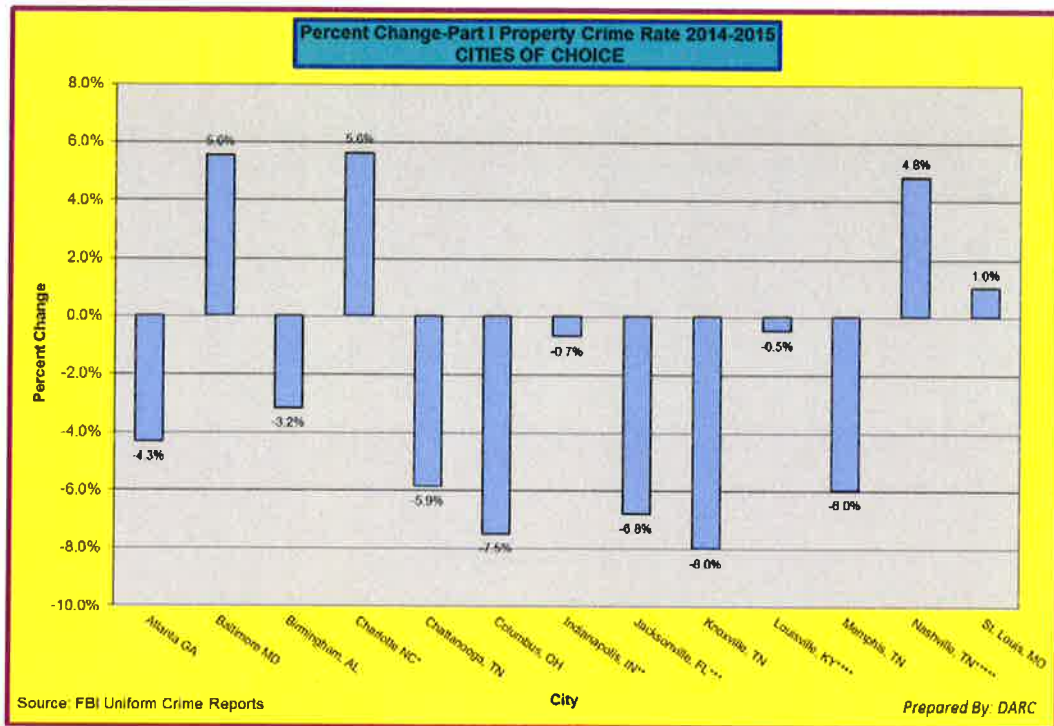


Figure ES 13: Percent Change Property Crime Rates- Cities of Choice: 2014-2015

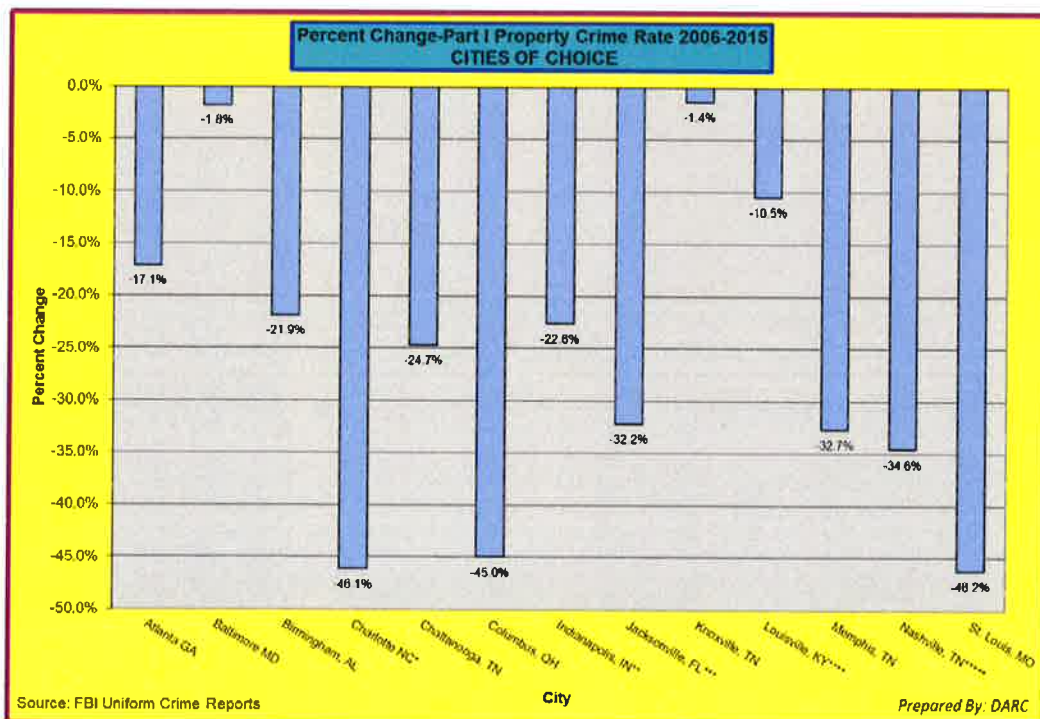


Figure ES 14: Percent Change Property Crime Rates-Cities of Choice: 2006-2015

## CITIES WITH POPULATIONS 500,000 to 1,000,000

The third group of cities discussed in this report is comprised of jurisdictions identified from the Uniform Crime Reports as having populations of 500,000 to 1 million residents. As discussed in the Report Methodology section, certain cities were omitted from parts of the analysis. The City of Atlanta was included since U.S. Census Bureau (as opposed to UCR population estimates) population estimates project that the population of the city is greater than 500,000. As a result, twenty-two (22) cities were available for analysis. Data on individual offenses can be found in the Appendices G (2014-2015) and H (2006-2015). Methodological Note: Violent Crime rates for the City of Memphis are presented using the UCRs new definition for “Rape” and the legacy “Forcible Rape” definition (shown in footnotes) derived from TBI data. We note that 3 (13.6%) of the 22 Cities of Populations of 500,000-1,000,000 used the legacy definition of “Forcible Rape” in reporting to the 2015 UCR. In addition, four cities changed from using the legacy definition in 2014 to reporting under the new definition of rape in 2015.<sup>18</sup> **LEGEND FOR TABLES AND CHARTS**: Cities using the legacy definition are coded orange in charts for violent crime rates. Charts for percent change from 2014-2015 have cities using the legacy definition in both years coded orange, cities changing reporting practice from 2014 to 2015 are color coded green, and cities using the new definition in both years are colored blue.

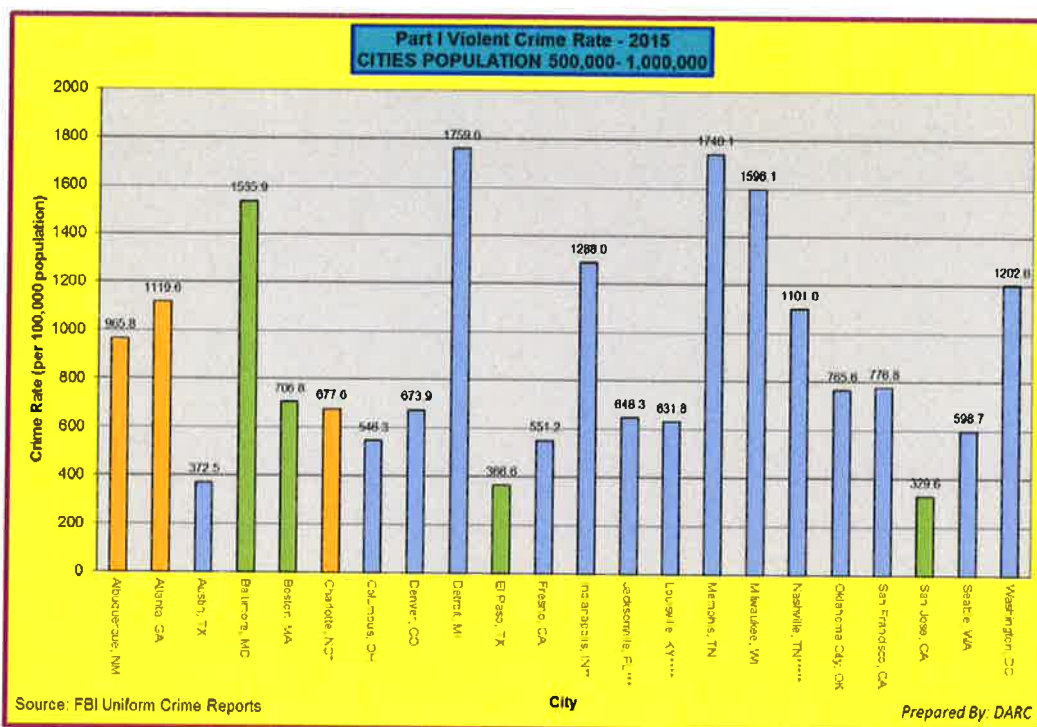
### Violent Crime Rates

The Mean Violent Crime rate for Cities with populations 500,000 to 1,000,000 was 907.0 (S.D. 447.2) and the Median Violent Crime rate was 736.2. The rate for the City of Memphis in 2015 was 1,740.1;<sup>19</sup> the relative position (highest to lowest) of the City of Memphis among the cities with populations of 500,000 to 1,000,000 was 2<sup>nd</sup> of 22 cities. (See *Figure ES-15*.) The City of Memphis’ Percentage from the Median for the Violent Crime Rate in 2015 was 236.4%, 232.1% in 2014, 234.0% in 2013, 245.0% in 2012, 241.4% in 2011, and 229.0% in 2006.

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<sup>18</sup> See Fn. 11 for a cautionary note concerning comparisons among the cities.

<sup>19</sup> The 2015 Violent Crime rate for the City of Memphis using the Legacy Rape definition was 1,721.7.



**Figure ES 15: Violent Crime Rates- Cities with Populations 500,000-1,000,000: 2015**

Ten of the 22 cities for which data on Violent Crime Rates was available had increases in 2014-2015; the smallest increase was 1.5% and the greatest was 18.8%. Eleven cities saw declines within a range of -0.5% and -11.5%. The City of Memphis had no percent change from 2014-2015<sup>20</sup> (See, Figure ES-16.) Four of the 22 cities had increases ranging from 3.1% to 34.2% during 2006-2015. Eighteen cities, including Memphis (-12.5%)<sup>21</sup> had declines ranging from -4.6% to -47.2%. (See, Figure ES-17.)

<sup>20</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2014-2015 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was +0.1%.

<sup>21</sup> The percent change for the City of Memphis for 2006-2013 using the legacy Forcible Rape definition was -13.5%.



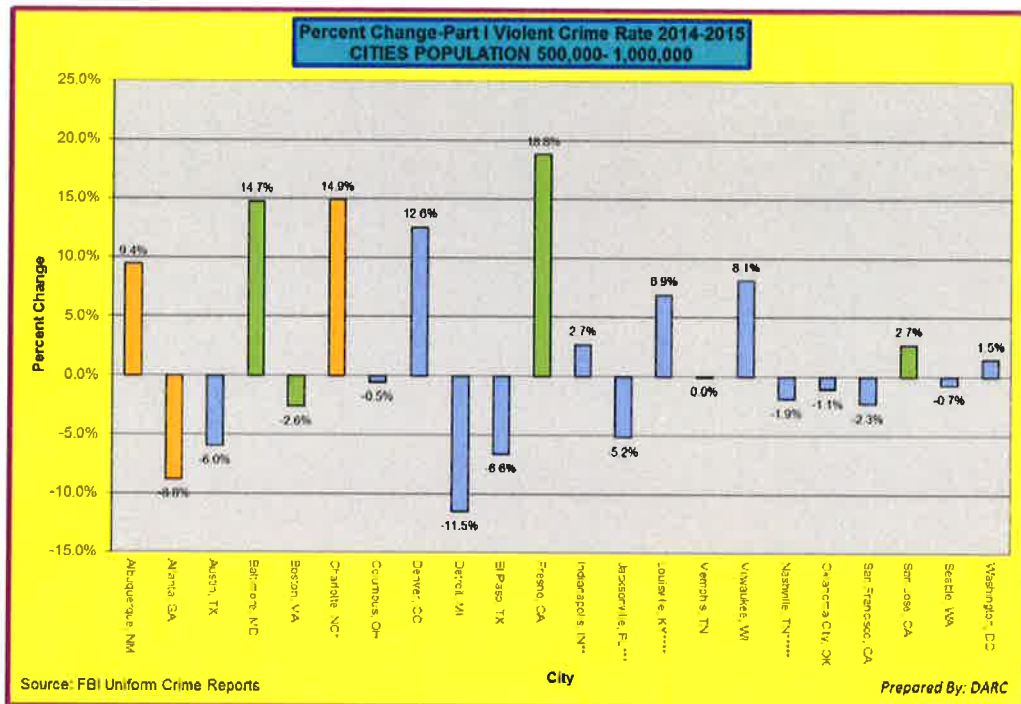


Figure ES 16: Percent Change Violent Crime Rates-Cities Populations 500,000 to 1,000,000: 2014-2015

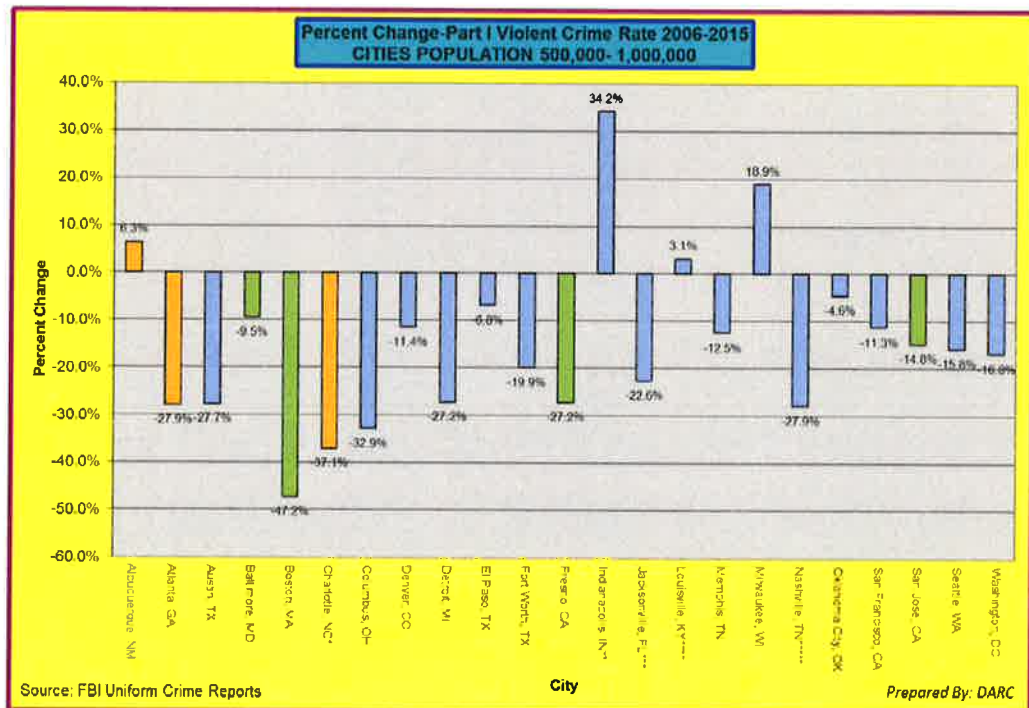


Figure ES 17: Percent Change Violent Crime Rates- Cities Populations 500,000 to 1,000,000: 2006-2015

## Property Crime Rates

The group of Cities with Populations of 500,000-1,000,000 in 2015 had a mean Property Crime rate of 4,223.6 (S.D. 1,136.3) and a median rate of 4,121.0. The Property Crime rate for the City of Memphis in 2015 was 5,630.8 resulting in the city having a relative position (highest to lowest) among this group of cities of 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 22 cities available for analysis. (See, Figure ES-18.) The city's 2015 Percentage from the Median was 136.6%, as compared to 133.2% in 2014, 128.4% in 2013, 133.1% in 2012, 135.1% in 2011 and 143.7% in 2006.

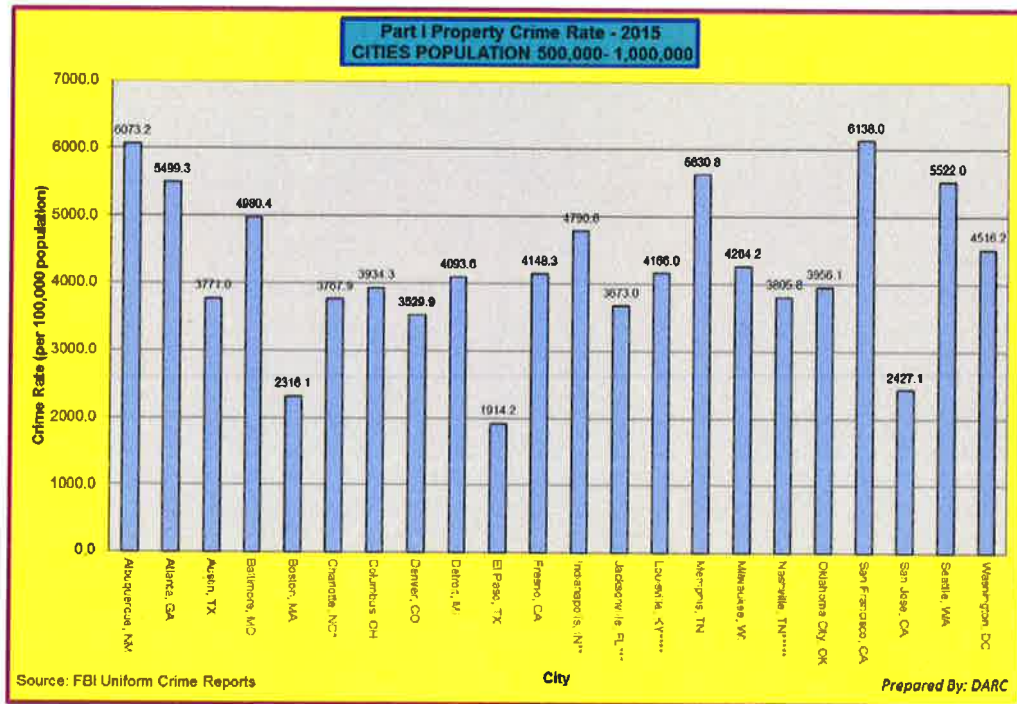


Figure ES 18: Property Crime Rate- Cities Populations 500,000-1,000,000: 2015

In 2014-2015, seven of the twenty-two cities witnessed increases in their Property Crime rates ranging from 0.9% to 15.7%. Fifteen cities, including Memphis (-6.0%) had declines within a range of -0.3 % to -15.0%. (See, Figure ES-19.) During the OSC trend period of 2006-2015, two of the 22 cities had Property Crime rate increases of 1.0% and 23.8%. Twenty cities had declines ranging from -1.8% to -48.1%; the decrease in Memphis was -32.7%. (See, Figure ES-20.)

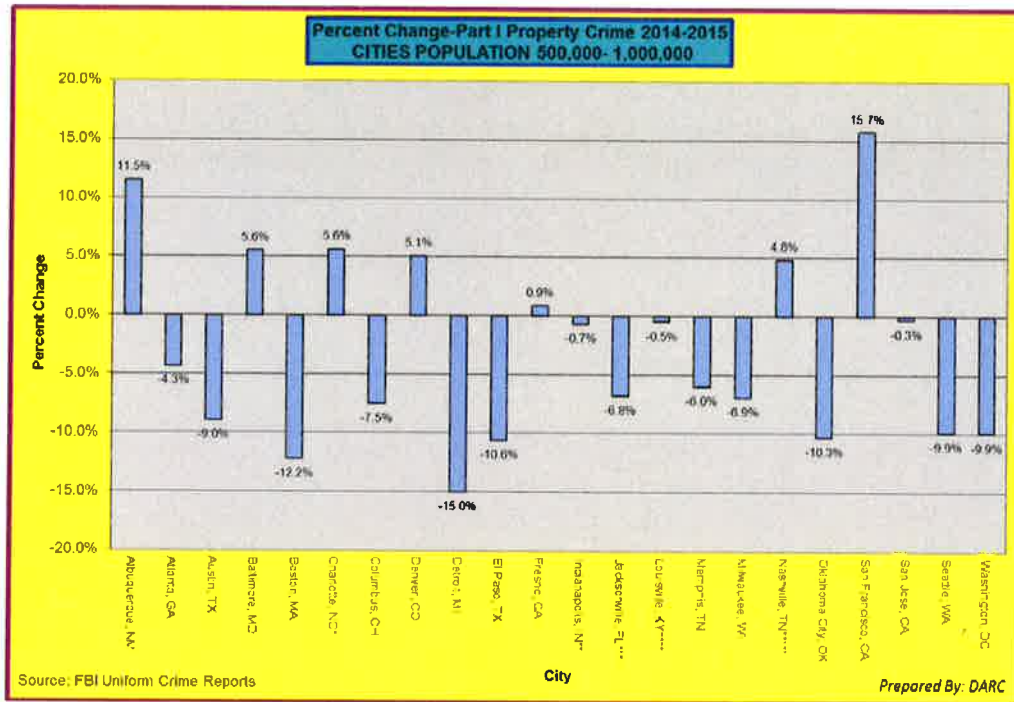


Figure ES 19: Percent Change Property Crime Rate-Cities Populations 500,000-1,000,000: 2014-2015

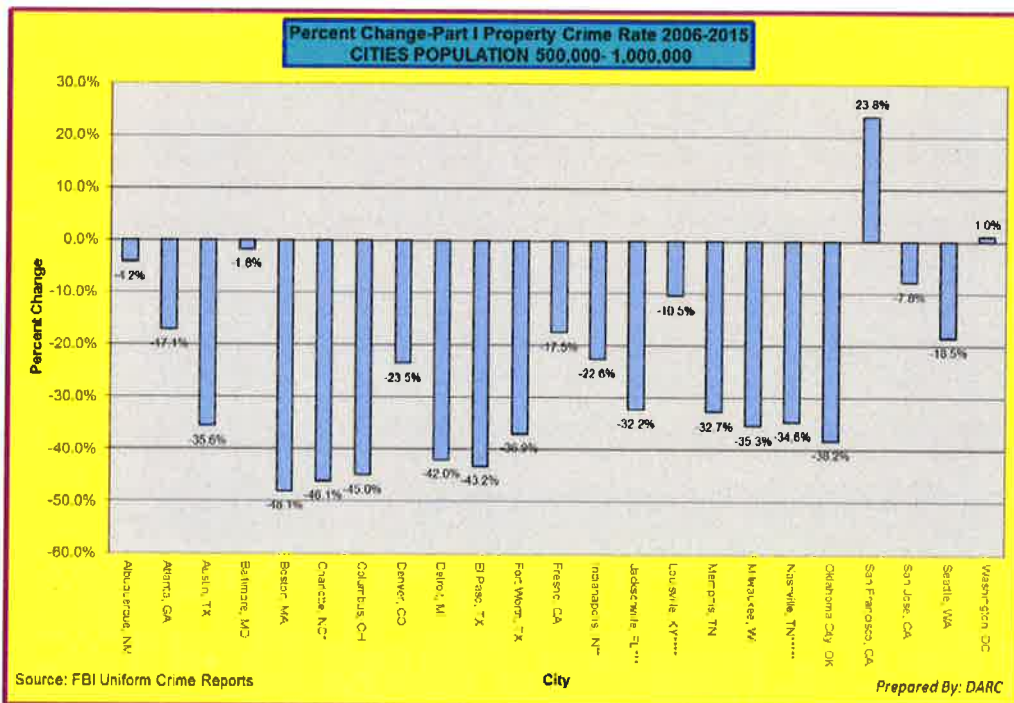


Figure ES 20: Percent Change Property Crime Rate-Cities Populations 500,000-1,000,000: 2006-2015

## CONCLUSION

Violent crime continues to be the challenge confronting the City of Memphis and Operation: Safe Community. In 2014-2015, the City of Memphis witnessed no change in the previously elevated Violent Crime Rate (using the legacy definition for Forcible Rape there was a slight increase +0.1%). From 2006-2015, the City of Memphis' percent change in Violent Crime rate declined -12.6%. The Violent Crime rate for the nation declined -0.8% (with a percent change for 2006-2015 of -22.3 %), while in Tennessee the Violent Crime rate increased 0.6% for 2014-2015 with a percent change of -19.7% for the years 2006-2015.

**In 2015, half of the 16 OSC Comparison Cities suffered increases from 2014 in their Violent Crime rates ranging from 2.2% to 14.9%.** Seven cities had rate decreases with a range of -1.1% to -11.5 %. Between 2006 and 2015, four of the OSC Comparison cities had increases in their Violent Crime rates ranging from 3.1% to 81.6% (New Orleans, LA) while 12 cities witnessed decreases within a range of -4.6% to -50.5% (Richmond, VA.) Among the Cities of Choice eight cities had increases in their Violent Crime rates between 2014 and 2015 with a range of 1.6% to 14.9%. Four cities witnessed decreases ranging from -0.5% to -8.8%. During the period 2006-2015 three cities had increases in their Violent Crime rate of 3.1% and 37.1%. Ten cities had decreases ranging from -9.5% to -37.1%. **Of the 22 Cities with Populations of 500,000-1,000,000 ten of the cities for which data on Violent Crime rates was available had increases in 2014-2015;** the smallest increase was 1.5% and the greatest was 18.8%. Eleven cities saw declines within a range of -0.5% and -11.5%. Four of the 22 cities had increases ranging from +3.1% and +34.2% during 2006-2015. Eighteen cities, including Memphis (-12.5%) had declines ranging from -4.6% to -47.2% (Boston, MA.)

Property crime, on the other hand, continues to decline. The Property Crime rate in Memphis declined -6.0% in 2014-2015 resulting in a decrease of -32.7% for the period of 2006-2015. **As a result, the Property Crime rate was the lowest in 2015 of any year since 1985.** Burglary rates in 2015 were the lowest since 1985. In addition, rates for burglary reached the lowest point for the OSC trend time period of 2006-2015. For the nation as a whole, the Property Crime rate declined -4.2% in 2015 and -25.7% for the period 2006-2015. In Tennessee, the Property Crime rate decreased by -4.1% in 2015 as compared to 2014 with a decline of -29.0% for 2006-2015. In 2015, six OSC Comparison cities had increases in their Property Crime rate of 0.4% and 5.6% while ten cities had declines ranging from -0.5% to -10.3%. Only one city had an increase (+37.2%) in the Property Crime rate during 2006-2015. Fifteen cities witnessed declines ranging from -1.8% to -49.8%. Among the Cities of Choice in 2015, four cities had increases of 1.0% and 5.6% while nine cities had declines with a range from -0.5% to -8.0%. During the OSC trend period of 2006-2015, all thirteen cities witnessed declines ranging from -1.4% to -46.2%. Seven Cities with Populations of 500,000 to 1 Million had increases in the Property Crime rate in 2015 ranging from 0.9% to 15.7%. Fifteen cities, including Memphis (-6.0%), had declines in 2015 within a range of -0.3% to -15.0%. During the OSC trend period of 2006-2015, two cities had increases in their Property Crime rates of 1.0% and 23.8% and twenty cities had decreases of between -1.8% and -48.1%.